

BOOK 2 of 5

I have a tape recording of an interview with Mr. Carlos de la Vega, a Cuban expatriate, now a leader in the 'Freedom Club'.⁹ In the interview, De La Vega states that Sirhan Sirhan attended a convention of his organization on May 21 in Los Angeles, just two weeks before the assassination of Senator Kennedy.¹⁰ He said one of the members- a representative of his delegation- José Blarte- was the principal speaker.¹¹ After some films were shown, a man described by witnesses as, 'an Arab,'¹² (which Sirhan certainly was)¹³ stood up and loudly insulted the Cubanx underground, saying they were members of the C.I.A.- or paid by the C.I.A.-- and called them 'imperialist yankees'.¹⁴ He was later positively identified as Sirhan Beshara Sirhan, the accused killer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.¹⁵.....

RECOMMENDATION: That we attempt to get in touch with De la Vega (perhaps the TV station would provide a lead-- at least the source of the interview), and from him we ~~should get the~~ should get the story firsthand, as well as Jose Blarte's address. The bottom of this should be gotten to before all the witnesses die off, as with the President Kennedy case. Maybe we should subpoena them for the grand jury. I would be glad to handle this matter-- that is, locating this witness, etc., if you could give me some identification as a member of the New Orleans District Attorney's staff. Because of the generation gap (the adults have practiced long before we ever thought of it-- never trust anyone under 30, if you're over 29), no one trusts me or believes me. Even my own bank requests identification, and until I started driving a car, that was always a problem. I would need stationery also, with 'District Attorney' letterhead.

2. Arthur Hanes, lawyer for the suspect in London, says he has been prevented from seeing his client.¹⁷ He says he is not certain that the man is in fact James Earl Ray, that all of his contact with the man has been under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.¹⁸ In answer to a question regarding who was paying him, he said he figured this man had the money himself; he doubted that he had organizational backing, but said he would find out when he talked to him.¹⁹

3. In London, the suspect charged with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King has testified at an extradition hearing that he did not kill Dr. King, that he never even met him, and ~~that~~ did not have any kind of grudge against him.²⁰ The F.B.I. then said that the fingerprints on the rifle said to have killed Dr. King matched those of James Earl Ray, on file in the Los Angeles police department.²¹ This should be weighed against the above, however.

*Los Angeles, California, is one of the key cities in the plot to kill President Kennedy.²² Its name re-occurs again and again.²³ It is also from there that Edgar Eugene Bradley** is fighting extradition.²⁴ And it was there that Robert Kennedy was murdered.²⁵

**After the shots were fired in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, a policeman- Joe Marshall Smith- directed by a woman to the grassy knoll, found a man in the area behind the fence, who flashed Secret Service credentials.²⁶ Yet all SS agents, according to procedure, remained in the

4. An armor shield has been ordered for the protection of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.²⁷ The county Board of Supervisors has authorized unlimited expenditures to assure the protection of Sirhan, including being led from his cell through a sealed passageway whose windows will be covered by heavy steel plates.²⁸ The total cost of the expenditure for the protection equipment was estimated at \$20,000.²⁹ Sheriff Peter Pitchess said, 'WE are aware of rumors of a conspiracy (in the assassination) and we are providing the stringent security ~~xxxxxxx~~ we feel is necessary.'³⁰ Mr. Lane said he felt that the conspirators might decide again to do away with Sirhan, as with Oswald.³¹ But he said he fears more for the life of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison,³² as do I.

5. Meanwhile, the Tennessee officials who will probably handle the London suspect (if extradited) conferred in Dallas, Texas with District Attorney Henry Wade and Sheriff Bill Decker, regarding security arrangements and court procedures.³³ Decker had ordered his deputies to 'take no part whatsoever in the security of the Presidential motorcade.'³⁴ (Talk of the blind leading the blind! This beats asking a bald man how to keep from losing one's hair!! I'm a little surprised this has not been more widely heralded.)

MOTORcade all the way to Parkland Hospital.³⁵ He was later seen by Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman and Sgt. D.V. Harkness in the RR yards and behind the Texas School Book Depository Building.³⁶ Upon his word (and SS credentials), the Sheriff's office released the Latin earlier arrested in the Dal-Tex building.³⁷ In October 1967, Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig identified him as Edgar Eugene Bradley.³⁸

a book⁵⁸ and a magazine article⁵⁹ about the assassination ~~xx~~ and the Commission⁶⁰ and who has been conducting his own independent investigation into the assassination⁶¹ which has yielded the conclusion that the murders of RFK, and MLK were ordered by the same organization which murdered President Kennedy, that it was a branch of the C.I.A.⁶²

7. Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, brother of the ~~xx~~ accused slayer, was shot in his car, shortly after talking to his brother.⁶³ He was coming back from an unsuccessful appointment with ~~xx~~ reporter for the ~~XXXXX~~ FREE PRESS.⁶⁴ Someone is tampering with the soul of democratic justice.

Regarding our first conversation, of June 18, the following constitutes the evidentiary proof that led me to the conclusion that Oswald was not one of the assassins:

Charles Douglas Givens (who did not testify before the Commission⁶⁵) said in a deposition that he saw Oswald on the sixth floor at 11:55 AM, working with a clipboard.⁶⁶ Then at 12:00, Eddie Piper (who also did not testify before the Commission⁶⁷) saw him on the first floor.⁶⁸ At ~~12:20~~ about 12.00, Bonnie Ray Williams ate his lunch on the sixth floor.⁶⁹ Asked if Oswald could have been there also, he replied, 'That is one of the reasons why I left-- because it was so quiet.'⁷⁰

*I was there from -
5.10, maybe 12
minutes. (3H170)*

Q: Where did you go when you left there?

WILLIAMS: I went down to the fifth floor.

Q: How did you get down there?

WILLIAMS: I took an elevator down.

Q: You didn't go down the stairs?

WILLIAMS: No, sir.⁷¹

According to eyewitness Jack Dougherty, an employee standing beside them or near them, both elevators were then on the fifth floor, with their gates open.⁷² Three witnesses on the fifth floor had indicated to the FBI that they had had a full view of the stairs after the assassination, and no one had gone up nor down them.⁷³ (Both elevators were found on the fifth floor after the shooting by the FBI, with their gates open.)⁷⁴ Also, Vicki Adams testified that after the shots were fired, she ran from the fourth floor to the first floor, and did not see Oswald on the stairs.⁷⁵ Then, Officer Marrion L. Baker and superintendent Roy S. Truly saw Oswald on the second floor.⁷⁶ The only other way he could possibly have gotten there without Baker and Truly seeing ~~him there~~ the swinging door in motion,⁷⁷ was to have come up from the first floor.⁷⁸

*mechanically
closed*

The recent revelation of an FBI report concerning Mrs. R.E. Arnold is the clincher. She says when she left the Depository building she caught a fleeting glimpse of L.H.O. on the first floor,⁷⁹ at approximately the spot where ~~NEW~~ the Altgens photograph shows a man who appears to be Oswald.⁸⁰ In the signed statement, she said she left the building at about 12:25,⁸¹ although the sixth floor gunman was seen by Arnold Rowland at 12:15.⁸²

ALL of the 26 volumes, but that he had read PART of them. (Later, on Dave Wagenport's 'Hot Seat', he explained that he had read the 'paperback'.) He first chided Mr. Lane and Mr. Garrison for 'pooblikly' insulting the anti-Castroites. (Mr. Lane had not mentioned anti-Castroites at all, and Mr. Garrison was not even there.) Secondly, Oswald had killed Officer Tippit. Thirdly, (although Mr. Lane had offered him only two corrections), three men on the fifth floor of the T.S.B.D. bldg. had heard the shots come from above them, and felt them shake the building. When the audience then began to laugh and hiss, he finally came up with the brilliant assertion that he had known Oswald while he was in New Orleans, and that he was a Marxist. Returning, Mr. Lane ignored Bringuier's first point about insulting anti-Castroites exiles in N.O., leaving it, I suppose, to Harold Weisberg in his forthcoming lawsuit. That Oswald had killed Tippit was complicated by eyewitnesses, a jacket, and bullets in Tippit's body that did not fit Oswald's pistol. Thirdly, though the three men in the fifth floor of the Depository did hear shots coming from above them, ~~the~~ 80% of the witnesses in and around the building said the shots had NOT come from there, said Mr. Lane, 'so let's go with the majority.' And though Bringuier had asserted that his ephemeral relationship ^{with Lane} had yielded the conclusion that he was a Marxist, 'the real question is not was he a Marxist, but was he a marksman.' Mr. Lane's inspiring brilliance that evening was tarnished only by the fact that WDSU*TV (the only TV station covering it--and probably the only press at all) reported visually for its viewers (though it shot hours of Mr. Lane's speech) only a film of Bringuier's initial outburst that Mr. Lane had told lie after lie (though he was actually able to ~~not~~ cite only four dubious points), and showed that Perry Russo had been among the assemblage. Nevertheless, Bringuier's unmistakable voice does resemble slightly that of the man I have on tape. During the booing and hissing, the already riotous audience was tumultuously thrown into hysterics by Bringuier's desperate plea:

'Please pardon my accent. I could say it all in Spanish, but you wouldn't understand it.'

- 9 Interview, Carlos de la Vega.
 WVUE*TV News (with Alec Gifford), June 16, 1968, 11:00pm
 (The tape referred to is a conscription monitored from this broadcast.)

10)
 11)
 12)
 13) Ibid.
 14)
 15)

Mark Lane, author of Rush to Judgment, in Boston today quoted New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison... 'Long before Martin Luther King was killed, Garrison made the statement that anyone who stood up in this country and took a stand against racial injustice and in favor of the dismantling of the war machine would have to be murdered. And now Martin Luther King has been assassinated, and Senator Robert Kennedy has been assassinated.' ...Lane also said that certain 'emissaries' had informed Garrison that the late Senator remained silent about his brother's death, planning to prosecute those responsible after he became President. Lane declined to elaborate.¹

*****2*****

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison says he's confident that Robert Kennedy would have prosecuted those responsible for the late President's death if he- Robert- had become President. Garrison said today that mutual friends of the Senator and himself made Garrison understand why the New York Senator remained relatively silent on his brother's death.²

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison today confirmed statements made earlier this week by author Mark Lane...

Garrison: Well, yes, that's essentially correct; there may have been a word or two changed here or there. For instance, the 'emissaries' he spoke of were actually mutual friends of ours [his and Robert Kennedy's] ...

Interviewer: Mr. Garrison, can you tell me, were these assassinations [of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Senator Robert Kennedy] tied together somehow?

Garrison: Well, the obvious answer is of course. Although I doubt that Sirhan Sirhan was one of their crack experts that they usually use, but they apparently decided in this case to use a cover [anti-Semitism]. But there exists in this country a very powerful organization which will stop at nothing to prevent any man from speaking out against racial injustice and America's becoming somewhat of an imperialistic military empire...³

6. An Orange County Baptist minister, described as a Southern California evangelist told the Associated Press that he picked Sirhan Sirhan and another friend (of the same nationality) in Los Angeles on Monday, June 3.³⁹ The minister, accompanied by Oakland Private Detective Ben Hardister and San Francisco criminal ~~xxxxxx~~ attorney George T. Davis, said he and Sirhan discussed horses and he sold Sirhan a pony.⁴⁰ Sirhan said he would not have the price- \$300- until late that night.⁴¹ So the minister left him out (at his request) near the Ambassador Hotel 'to see a friend in the kitchen.'⁴² That evening, Sirhan produced a \$100 bill, promising the rest the next day- Tuesday- at 8 AM.⁴³

At that time, Sirhan did not show up.⁴⁴ An older man (of the same nationality) met him and told him Sirhan really did want that pony, and to meet him and the same place outside the Ambassador Hotel, where he had first let him off.⁴⁵ The minister said he ~~was~~ could not make it, but he gave this older man his ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ unlisted phone number.⁴⁶ He received a threatening phone call the next day-- after Kennedy had been shot.⁴⁷ 'What worries me is that the only man- besides the police- to whom I gave my unlisted number is that older man...'; he said.⁴⁸ Three days later, he received another.⁴⁹ Out of 30 pictures, he picked one of the man he gave a ride to, and it was Sirhan.⁵⁰ The minister, now in hiding, and who requested anonymity to the AP interviewer, also advised that on one of the stops to contact Sirhan, he had seen him talking to a young girl.⁵¹ (The one in the polka dress, maybe?)

RECOMMENDATION: That we get in touch with either Ben Hardister, Oakland private detective and/or San Francisco criminal attorney George T. Davis.

7. A major magazine⁵² generally complimentary of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison⁵³ which recently revealed the existence of Richard Geisbrecht⁵⁴ (the man who overheard Dave Ferrie in Canada discuss Oswald and the JFK murder⁵⁵) and which is apparently conducting its own independent investigation into the Warren Report⁵⁶ said that it agreed with a major critic of the Report⁵⁷ who has written

palm and thumbprints thought to be the assassin's were of any ~~XXXX~~ help was also kept secret.⁶⁵

(8.) An unidentified witness is said to have seen a blue Pontiac chasing the fleeing killer's white Mustang, and that the Mustang shot at its pursuant.⁶⁶

(9.) The F.B.I. statement on April 17, however, did not link 'Galt' directly with the gun.⁶⁷ And other omissions and contradictions remained after issuance of the arrest warrant.⁶⁸ The next seven points that follow are the major ones.

(10.) The F.B.I. had said that 'Galt' took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965.⁶⁹ But the April 19 announcement linking 'Galt' and Ray noted that Ray had been in prison between 1960 and April 23, 1967, when he escaped.⁷⁰

(11.) Some characteristics noted for 'Galt' were not mentioned by the F.B.I. in connection with Ray. Among them: a nervous habit of pulling at an earlobe, a taste for beer and vodka, and a love of dancing.⁷¹

(12.) The suspect was said to have finished his bartending course in Los Angeles on March 2. But an official of the Alabama Highway Patrol said that a duplicate of a driver's license was mailed to 'Eric Starvo Galt' at a Birmingham

address on March 1, as the result of a telephoned request.⁷²

(13.) A Memphis witness who had seen a man running from the murder scene said the F.B.I. photographs ~~were~~ published April 17 were not of the man he saw.⁷³

(14.) In Birmingham, the landlord of a rooming house who had earlier identified F.B.I. sketches as those of 'Eric Starvo Galt', a former tenant, also cast doubts on the early photographs released by the F.B.I.⁷⁴

(15.) In Atlanta, two cab drivers who had identified the suspect from earlier sketches said the published photographs did not resemble the man they had in mind.⁷⁵

(16.) No explanation-- other than that he may have been a professional assassin-- was seen for the money that 'Galt' needed to buy the Mustang and make his travels in succeeding months.⁷⁶

(17.) LIFE said Ray's 'agitation increased when he read the news of Robert Kennedy's assassination.'⁷⁷ Two days later, at 11:00 in London airport, he was arrested,⁷⁸ and although he packed a .38, made no effort to escape or resist,⁷⁹ and, according to officials, could have gone from the Lisbon plane that brought him to London directly to the transit lounge, and thus have avoided immigration officers.⁸⁰

(18.) NEWSWEEK reported, 'The weapon initially led F.B.I. agents to a man who could conclusively prove that he was nowhere near Memphis at ~~that~~ the time of the crime.'⁸¹

(19.) Ray, who allegedly had a penchant for prostitutes⁸² and put an ad in the Los Angeles FREE PRESS,⁸³ was described as a 'merchant seaman' on his driver's license application, though 'maritime agency records and merchant marine unions revealed no trace of such a sailor.'⁸⁴

(20.) The weirdest aspect of the Ray case, I think, is the aliases he used.⁸⁵ Eric S. Galt, Ramon Sneyd, and Paul Bridgman are living people (in the same neighborhood in Toronto, Canada),⁸⁶ and bear amazing resemblances to James Earl Ray.⁸⁷ I have two sets of photographs which prove this.⁸⁸ This may be another of Louis Nizer's amazing coincidences,⁸⁹ but as Penn Jones would say-- it is just one too many.⁹⁰

TWENTY QUESTIONS

FOOTNOTES & ADDENDUM

- 1 XI H 367; Lane, Mark, RUSH TO JUDGMENT, p.324 (pp. 273-274 in paperback); Popkin, Richard, THE SECOND OSWALD, (pp. 75-80&142-143 in paperback).
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Interview, Jim Garrison.
PLAYBOY, October 1967, XIV:10, pp. 59, 68.
- 5 Interview, Jim Garrison.
WWL*TV, cited BATON ROUGE STATE-TIMES, May 22, 1967, p.9B.
- 6 TIMES-PICAYUNE, May 6, 1967, 131yr.:#102;
Interview, Jim Garrison.
Associated Press, cited NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM,
May 23, 1967, XC:295, p.23.
- 7 pun intended-- the origin of the theory that Oswald was part of the Cuban underground resistance was the testimony of Mrs. Sylvia OBIO. Sorry about that.
XI H 367; Weisberg, OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS: CASE FOR CONSPIRACY WITH THE CIA, (Canyon paperback, p.251).
- 8 At Tulane University, ^{*McAlister Auditorium*} December 7, 1968, after Mr. Lane finished his speech on, 'The Assassination and Two Investigations-- The Warren Commission and Jim Garrison,' sponsored by the students' Lyceum committee, in a question-answer period, Dr. Carlos Bringuier shouted that he was a friend of Oswald's and that the good people who had come to hear the truth about how President Kennedy was killed had been told lie after lie. Mr. Lane calmly offered him the platform to, 'point out two errors in anything I've said.' Bringuier first explained that in raising his children and working to support himself and his family, he had not had time to spend 18 hours a day, 'as Mr. Lane has,' reading

- 16 Epstein, INQUEST, pp. 94-95; Jones, FORGIVE MY GRIEF (vol. 2), pp. 92-93.
- 17 Interview, Arthur Hanes.
NBC News, Wednesday July 3, 1968
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Interview, Arthur Hanes.
WNOE News, Friday July 5, 1968
- 20 NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM, June 27, 1968, XCII:15, p.1
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 See Jones, op. cit., p.116
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 N.O. TIMES PICAYUNE, June 27, 1968, 132yr.:#155, sec. 2, p.4
- 25 June 5, 1968, in the kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel.
- 26 VII H 535
- ~~28~~ Interview, Mark Lane.
PLAYBOY, February 1967, XIV:2, p.45;

Lane, A CITIZEN'S DISSENT, p. 193;

Interview, Sylvia Meagher.
Lewis & Schiller (PB), pp. 87-88.

Thompson, Josiah, SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS, p. 124-125
- 27 NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM, June 26, 1968, XCI:14, p.1
- 28-29 IBID.
- 30 NATIONAL ENQUIRER, July 14, 1968, XLII:45, p.19
- 31-32 Ibid., p.18
- 33 N.O. TIMES-PICAYUNE, June 29, 1968, 132yr.:#157, p.6
- 34 THE MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR, March 7, 1968, XXV:14, p.2
- 35-36 See note 26, all sources cited.
- 37 THE MIDLOTHIAN MIRROR, March 14, 1968, XXV:15, p.2
- 38 Ibid.

- 39-51 N.O. TIMES-PICAYUNE, July 1, 1968, 132yr.:#157, p.6
52 NATIONAL ENQUIRER, ~~XLII~~ January 28, 1968, XLII:21,
53-55 Ibid.
56 Ibid., and July 14, 1968, XLII:45, pp.1,17-18.
57-58 Ibid. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
59 TRUE, December 1967, XLVIII:367, p.34
60 Ibid., and notes 56-58.
61 Telephone conversation, Mrs. Ruth Alben.
representative of Harry Walker, Inc., New York City,
by Mr. William C. Bradshaw, program advisor for the
Louisiana State University Union.
62 Source cited in notes 56-58.
63 N.O. STATES-ITEM, July 3, 1968, XCII:20, p.1;
July 4, 1968, XCII:21, p.3;
N.O. TIMES-PICAYUNE, July 4, 1968, 132yr.:#162, p.1
64 Ibid.
65 See Warren Report, index of witnesses.
66 VI H 349-351
68 XIX H 383; VI H 383
67 Source cited in note 65.
69 III H 161~~f~~
70 III H 178
71 Ibid..
72 ~~XXXXXXXXXXWHITELAND(DAILY)XXXXXXXXXXXXXVI H 373~~
~~XXXXXXX~~
~~XX~~
73 Epstein, p.84
74 Ibid.

- 75 VI H 386
- 76 III H 242; VII H 592; and III H 212; VII H 380, 591.
- 77 Weisberg, WHITEWASH (Dell paperback ed.), 87-88;
WHITEWASH II (Dell pb ed.), p.306.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Archives, CD 5.
Thompson, Josiah, op. cit., pp. 234-5;
Weisberg, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, pp.74-6, 210-11;
Lane, A CITIZEN'S DISSENT, pp. 88-89.
- 80 Commission Exhibit 900.
- 81 XXII H 635
- 82 II H 169, 173
- 83 Weisberg, OSWALD IN NOO., p.22
- 84-85 Ibid.
- 86 Lewis & Schiller, THE SCAVENGERS AND CRITICS OF THE
WARREN REPORT, p. 94
- 87 ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY, MEMORIAL EDITION, New York:
M.F. Enterprises, Inc., 1968, p.541

information to Colonel Rainford or to other CIC personnel about highly sensitive FOI operations, nor did he reveal such information subsequently during a whitewashed investigation conducted into certain FOI activities by the Office of the Inspector General and the U. S. Army Intelligence Support Center (USARISC).

(18) While assigned to the CIC in Japan, plaintiff's primary duties were as Administrative Officer, Operations Officer and Commanding Officer of a CIC detachment; his additional duties were those of Custodian Evidence Officer, Security Control Officer, Crypto Security Officer and Top Secret Control Officer. For approximately three months, beginning in October 1957, plaintiff was assigned full time to the CIC file depository in Japan to supervise the review, regrading of security classification, and the destruction of thousands of SECRET and TOP SECRET documents accumulated by the CIC during the years 1945-1957. Under pressure from the Japanese Diet, the U. S. government had ordered the disbandment of the CIC in Japan (except for a 34-man unit destined to be left behind in secret), and all CIC files were being systematically destroyed after being placed on microfilm and shipped to the Central Records Facility (now called the Intelligence Records Repository) in the United States. These files consisted mainly of Agent Reports, Summaries of Investigations, Intelligence Summaries, Periodic Intelligence Reports, individual dossiers (many compiled on U. S. Senators, Congressmen, newspaper correspondents, American businessmen, tourists, and other American citizens who had visited or traveled through Japan over the years) and numerous classified reports originating

U.S. Court of Claims
717 Madison Place NW
Washington, DC 20005 Ph (202) 633-7257
Case No. 1-73; Hagell v U.S.A. originated in April 1974.
Carla A. Hills countersigned a motion for the defendant (the U.S.A.)

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Then came further disaster. By the time Brossard met me for dinner that night he no longer was a senior editor at Look. In fact, he no longer was connected with Look magazine in any fashion.

The new acting Editor in Chief, appointed to replace William Attwood, had refused to permit the publication of the story supporting me which Brossard had completed. Brossard - outraged at the sudden change in the mind at Look - had announced that if it were not published he would resign. At that point, as I recall Brossard's account, the situation had escalated to the point of "you can't quit - you're fired."

In any event, Chandler Brossard's career at Look had ended that abruptly and it wasn't long - only a month or two, at the outside - when it became publicly apparent that Look magazine, under its new Editor in Chief, finally had adopted a position with regard to Kennedy's assassination.

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investigation - from the city. No detail had been omitted, from the time of my arrival in a particular city to the hotel at which I stayed. In some instances, after I had acquired more publicity from the press than I had wanted, I frequently had used another name in travelling. On one occasion I used my grandfather's name, on several others I used a name which I grabbed out of thin air - simply to avoid unnecessary publicity and, hopefully, to minimize the clusters of reporters who sometimes appeared on the scene like locusts at the slightest provocation.

On the travel occasions when I used a pseudonym, it invariably had been limited to the purchase of the airline ticket or registration at a hotel. I never felt the need to pretend to be someone I wasn't. Nevertheless, the F.B.I. reports on my movements treated these instances as most serious and referred darkly to my use of "aliases".

On one trip as the Bureau's summary duly observed, I had registered at a hotel as "W.O. Robinson" (which was my maternal grandfather's name. On two others, I had used the names of "Claude Culpepper" and "Clyde Ballou" (apellations which I had found intriguing when I plucked them out of the air). Simply because government agents are busy following you doesn't mean that travelling cannot be fun.

Of course, I had become so used to the surveillance of everything I did that I no longer paid any attention to this kind of stealthy gamesmanship. However, now and then, in looking back, I wonder about the fact that we had reached a state where something like that had come to be taken for granted.

Or, even more to the point, if no element of the United States government had been involved in Kennedy's murder, what difference would it make where I went or what name I used? And, if the government as a whole was not committed to covering up the truth about the assassination, why had it assigned the F.B.I. to follow a District Attorney who was digging into the facts?

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investigation - from the city. No detail had been omitted, from the time of my arrival in a particular city to the hotel at which I stayed. In some instances, after I had acquired more publicity from the press than I had wanted, I frequently had used another name in travelling. On one occasion I used my grandfather's name, on several others I used a name which I grabbed out of thin air - simply to avoid unnecessary publicity and, hopefully, to minimize the clusters of reporters who sometimes appeared on the scene like locusts at the slightest provocation.

On the travel occasions when I used a pseudonym, it invariably had been limited to the purchase of the airline ticket or registration at a hotel. I never felt the need to pretend to be someone I wasn't. Nevertheless, the F.B.I. reports on my movements treated these instances as most serious and referred darkly to my use of "aliases".

On one trip as the Bureau's summary duly observed, I had registered at a hotel as "W.O. Robinson" (which was my maternal grandfather's name. On two others, I had used the names of "Claude Culpepper" and "Clyde Ballou" (apellations which I had found intriguing when I plucked them out of the air). Simply because government agents are busy following you doesn't mean that travelling cannot be fun.

Of course, I had become so used to the surveillance of everything I did that I no longer paid any attention to this kind of stealthy gamesmanship. However, now and then, in looking back, I wonder about the fact that we had reached a state where something like that had come to be taken for granted.

Or, even more to the point, if no element of the United States government had been involved in Kennedy's murder, what difference would it make where I went or what name I used? And, if the government as a whole was not committed to covering up the truth about the assassination, why had it assigned the F.B.I. to follow a District Attorney who was digging into the facts?

CHAPTER 13-LONG TIME COMING

Sometimes it takes a while for the truth to work its way forth. In this case the truth was like an underground stream that was always there but took years to completely burst through the earth, first going sideways, then diagonally, finally vertically to the surface and cracking through first as a rivulet, then a creek, and finally a river. And as in the Japanese adage, Garrison was there on shore to see the bodies of his slain enemies being carried away on it.

The first myth to be slain was that of Clay Shaw. It began to crack in 1969, just too late for the trial. One of the problems the jury had with Garrison's case was the question of Shaw's motivation. They could not fathom how such an appealing man, such a pillar of civic pride, such a cultivated playwright, could have a part in a plot to kill President Kennedy. Shaw added to this quandary by proclaiming to all who would listen that he admired Kennedy. When a journalist would interview him and ask about his political leanings he would inevitably reply matter of factly, "I suppose I'd describe myself as a Wilsonian-F.D.R.-Kennedy liberal."¹ Sure enough, like trained seals, Shaw's champions would take his word for it and the question of motive was now a hole in the case.

Garrison was aware of this and its why he needed Gordon Novel, Richard Nagell, and finally Dave Ferrie at the trial. Without them, he had no intelligence connections to Shaw. Without that connection, the press, public and jury would accept the Kennedy liberal line.

But America is a parochial country. We weren't aware that the entire press was not swallowing Shaw's story. If the American press had looked at the man with half the interest they showed in Garrison, Shaw's facade may have been smashed sooner. In 1963 Clay Shaw did a small but revealing alteration in his resume. If one looks at the entries next to his name in the 1962 edition of Who's Who in the Southwest, Shaw is listed as a member of the board of directors of PermindeX. But in the 1963-1964 edition this particular entry does not show up.² No reporter in the entire two year episode of Shaw's arrest and trial ever noted this interesting fact. Why had Shaw taken this step in 1963?

Because the saga of PermindeX, its sister company Centro Mondiale Commerciale (CMC), and its relations to Shaw through his Trade Mart would have exposed both his position as an international businessman and his pose as a Kennedy liberal. According to a series of articles in both the Italian and French newspapers, both organizations turned out to be C.I.A. fronts in Europe with both reactionary policies and reactionary leaders on their boards. Shaw's International Trade Mart was a subsidiary of the CMC which was founded in Montreal in 1961.³

One of the directors of the CMC was a man named Spadafaro, a wealthy Italian with considerable interests in oil and the arms trade. He had once worked in Benito Mussolini's fascist administration. Spadafaro was related through marriage to Hjalmar Schacht, the notorious economic ^{58.}wizard whose fiscal policies had financed Hitler's Third Reich and who was tried at Nuremburg. Also on the CMC board was Ferenc Nagy, former premier

of Hungary and a leading contributor to fascist movements in Europe. Another director was Giuseppe Zigiotti, president of the Fascist National Association for Militia Arms.

The CMC was representative of the paramilitary right in Europe. It forms a good cross-section of the aging royalist monarchy that Shaw liked to hobnob with on his European jaunts and whose names and phone numbers he kept in his book.⁴ The organization was described by one writer as:

. . . a shell of superficiality, . . . composed of channels through which money flowed back and forth, with no one knowing the sources or the destination of the liquid assets.⁵

In 1962, the Canadian newspaper "Le Devoir" printed an extraordinary story. In an expose series on the CMC, the journal wrote:

. . . here is where the affair assumes stranger and stranger characteristics. It has ^{SP}hust been learned that the name of Clay Shaw was found among that of the eleven directors of a company, which up until 1962 had its headquarters in ^{SP}Montral. . in Rome it is known as the Centro Mondiale de Commerciale. . . .⁶

The reason it was not in Montreal at the time is because the newspaper expose forced it out of the country and into Italy. In Italy, the same thing happened. When the papers exposed the people, practices, and policies of the board, the explosive story blew the CMC out of the country. It then went somewhere that would esconce its fascist ^{SP}sympathies,

Johannesburg, South Africa. One of the reasons it was expelled from Italy, is because the government could never find out where its huge sums of money originated from.

To conclude with the CMC, I quote from two articles in "Paesa Sera" that led to its expulsion:

Among its possible involvements is that the Centro was a creature of the C.I.A. . . . set up as a cover for the transfer of C.I.A. . . . funds in Italy for illegal political-espionage activities. It still remains to clear up the presence on the administrative board of the CMC of Mr. Clay Shaw.

It is a fact that the CMC is nevertheless the point of contact for a number of persons who, in certain respects have ties whose common denominator is an anti-communism so strong that it would swallow up all those in the world who have fought for decent relations between East and West, including Kennedy.⁷

Perminindex was on the same order, if not worse. It was reportedly founded in 1958 by Major Louis Bloomfield, an American then residing in Montreal. He was a former agent of the O.S.S. the forerunner of the C.I.A. Both Bloomfield and Ferenc Nagy were on the board of Perminindex along with Shaw. The Italian press revealed that it had secretly financed the paramilitary opposition to President DeGaulle's support for Algerian independence.⁸ Later this organization, the O.A.S., made assassiantion

attempts against DeGaulle.

This is intriguing, to say the least. First of all, we saw earlier that Kennedy had been one of the leading American sympathizers for Algerian independence.⁹ Second, in the 1961 Houma arms raid, the arms heisted and then transported to Guy Bannister's office were C.I.A. weapons on loan to the O.A.S.¹⁰ Third, in tracing the money used to finance the DeGaulle assassination plots, French intelligence discovered that about \$200,000 in secret funds had been sent to Perminde accounts in the Banque la Credit Internationale. In 1962, Guy Bannister had dispatched a lawyer friend, Maurice Gatlin, to Paris with a suitcase full of money for the O.A.S., reportedly around \$200,000.¹¹

How did Shaw get involved with this bunch? What would a "Wilsonian-F.D.R.-Kennedy liberal" be doing serving on the boards of two groups of paramilitary, right-wing fascists who are involved with political assassinations? In 1977, a C.I.A. document disclosed Shaw's long association with the agency (Shaw had died in 1974).¹² This document had been prepared in 1967 by the C.I.A. in response to queries by Ramsey Clark and the Justice Department which was getting quite nervous about what Garrison's investigation would reveal about Shaw. The document disclosed his ties to the agency through the International Trade Mart but it went even further.

Shaw had been a C.I.A. contact as far back as 1949. As Colonel Fletcher Prouty stated in his book The Secret Team, the agency loves to employ people in the import-export business because it allows them to fly around the world making contacts

while having a legitimate cover.¹³ Shaw was filing reports from places like East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Peru, Argentina and Nicaragua. From 1949 to 1956, Shaw filed 30 reports with the agency.

And how did he begin filing those reports? Because when he was in the service during World War II--and earning a distinguished record--he, like Bloomfield was in the O.S.S. as a liaison officer to the headquarters of Winston Churchill.¹⁴

Shaw's record of contacts ends in 1956. It is at this point and considering his future relations with the CMC and Perminindex, that he seems to have gone into "deep cover" as an unfiled agent.¹⁵ This was made clear to anyone familiar with agency protocol when it was Shaw who was asked to introduce General Charles Cabell, deputy director of the C.I.A. when he was in New Orleans to address the Foreign Policy Association. Shaw was the program chairman of that group. Cabell was invited to address it one month after he had played a major role in the Bay of Pigs disaster. And it was Cabell who had insisted to J.F.K. that he had to send in air support to save the expedition. Cabell became one of Kennedy's chief antagonists in the agency and Kennedy was forced to remove him about the same time he removed Dick Bissell, the other mastermind behind the mission.

There is more on Shaw. Victor Marchetti, a former high official in the agency wrote in his book, "The C.I.A. and the Cult of Intelligence" that both Shaw and Ferrie had worked for the agency.¹⁶ He added that during Shaw's trial, Richard

Helms, then the D.C. I., repeatedly asked for reports on its progress and instructed top aides "to do all we can to help Shaw."¹⁷ Helms was forced to admit Shaw's relationship with the Agency at a trial in Florida in 1979.¹⁸

In 1964, former D.C.I. John McCone testified to the Warren Commission in quite categorical terms:

My examination has resulted in the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was not an agent, employee, or informant of the Central Intelligence Agency. The Agency never contacted him, interviewed him, talked with him, or recieved or solicited any reports or information from him, or communicated with him directly in any other manner.¹⁹

Later, Richard Helms, McCone's assistant and soon to be D.C.I. himself, testified to the same effect. McCone was probably misled. Considering Helms future record and his personal ethos, he was probably lying.

In 1976, a C.I.A. document was released that stated Agency interest in recruiting Oswald. The document goes on and suggests that interviews should be held with him through the Domestic Contacts Division. Later, the Agency revealed that it had a "201" file on Oswald. Some commentators, even former C.I.A. employees have stated that a 201 file would strongly denote that Oswald was an agent. Other credible observers deny this. Whatever the truth, the file the Agency had on Oswald was voluminous. It begins with documents from 1959, the year os his "defection", although the Agency says the file was opened in 1960. The file itself contains 1,196 documents, some of them hundreds of pages long. Of these,

over 200 are classified to this day, almost 30 years after his death. Many of those released^{SP} are heavily censored.

But not many informed observers have much hope in these files as the definitive statements as to Oswald's association with the C.I.A. As Colonel Prouty told author Anthony Summers:

Lee Oswald was not an ordinary Marine. He was a Marine on a cover assignment. . . It is obvious that much of the material in the Oswald cover file is wrong. It could be human error, though I doubt it, or it could be some kind of obfuscation. There are thousands of people who have had such files—that is, life records—done, and it is all mixed up. . . "20

With someone who could have reflected on the Agency as negatively as Oswald, one can bet the file was "all mixed up". The best discussion of Oswald in an intelligence role is the 1990 book Spy Saga by Philip Melanson. Of the many odd incidents related in this volume, perhaps the most telling is that on his Mexico trip, after leaving New Orleans for Dallas, Oswald was secretly accompanied by three intelligence agent.²¹

In a rare instance of understatement, Garrison wrote in 1988, "It would certainly have helped our case against Shaw to have been able to link him definitively with the C.I.A."²² Not to mention Oswald. If any of this information had come forth in 1969—and it was all there—a motive would have been discernible and the case would have been on more solid ground. If it all would have been on the table, the whole decorative wall of respectability so carefully constructed by Shaw and his lawyers would have been shattered and there can be little doubt the verdict would have been reversed.

In 1975, the second myth surrounding the assassination began to collapse, namely that the C.I.A. and F.B.I. had cooperated with the Warren Commission. In January of that year, the Rockefeller Commission was created. Its purpose was to investigate unlawful C.I.A. activities inside the United States. Some of its discoveries were shocking. The C.I.A. had intercepted and opened U.S. mail from 1953 to 1973; a domestic spying operation against Vietnam dissidents-Operation Chaos-was begun in 1967 and continued to 1974; the Agency created and implemented a foreign assassination group called "Executive Action" and it had a hand in plots against Allende of Chile, Lumumba of the Congo, Trujillo of the Dominican Republic and, of course, Castro. Finally, and devastatingly, this Commission unearthed the infamous use by the Agency of the Mafia in the early plots to kill Castro.²³

This knowledge proved too much for the Commission members. They decided not to include a draft of the chapter on assassinations in their report. Why they did not is not really clear. But as Executive Director David Belin has written, "The ramifications of an agency out of control were very grave."²⁴

The job of exposing this "out of control agency" was left to the Senate Intelligence Committee headed by the late Idaho senator Frank Church. The Committee membership was quite distinguished. It included such luminaries as Walter Mondale, Barry Goldwater and Gary Hart. The Final Report they issued became one of the most sensational and scathing documents ever issued by a Congressional Committee overseeing a government agency. It was so troubling that it led to the creation of the Intelligence Oversight Committees in both houses of Congress.

The Final Report devoted an entire volume to the performance of intelligence agencies in relation to the J.F.K. assassination. In this book, almost every aspect of the association between both the Bureau and Agency on one side and the Warren Commission on the other is scored. Whole areas of overwhelming importance were kept from the Commissioners so that any possibility of ties between any of the principals involved and any intelligence or underworld bodies were concealed.

Some of the highlights of this extraordinary report include:

- .The C.I.A. attempts to assassinate Castro were never revealed to the Commission²⁵
- .The C.I.A. realized that Castro knew of the plots yet this was never disclosed to the Commission.²⁶
- .The Bureau never investigated the Cuban exile groups in New Orleans and their possible connections to Oswald.²⁷
- .J. Edgar Hoover had a deep animus toward the Commission. After the Report was released, "Hoover asked for all derogatory material on Warren Commission members and staff contained in F.B.I. files."²⁸
- .The Agency ^{SP}deliberately covered up the true facts about Oswald's Mexico trip.²⁹
- .Within hours after the assassination, Hoover used his muscle to issue a report incriminating Oswald.³⁰
- .Hoover's leaks to the press about the F.B.I. investigation were meant to shut off the possibility of an independent inquiry.³¹

Two of the more acute and prominent members of the Committee were Democrat Gary Hart and Republican Richard Schweiker. Both had access to many classified intelligence files. Both came away from them enlightened, angered, and slightly frightened. At first, Hart was reluctant to reopen wounds from 1963. But appalled at what he had learned and fed up with the Agency's stonewalling, he finally spoke out. Commenting on Oswald's summer in New Orleans, he called for further inquiry into:

" . . . who Oswald really was—who did he know?
What affiliation did he have in the Cuban
network? Was his public identification
with the left a cover for a connection with
the anti-Castro right wing?³²

Hart went on to declare that, in his opinion, Oswald was quite a sophisticated operator, bright enough to act as a double agent.³³

Schweiker was even more convinced and conceptual:

Either we trained and sent him [Oswald] to
Russia, and they went along and pretended
they didn't know to fake us out, or in fact,
they inculcated him and sent him back here
and were trying to fake us out that way.³⁴

This was Ronald Reagan's tentative running mate in 1976 speaking. One can imagine what was in those files. In 1978, he went even further and stated that the Warren Commission had collapsed. It was set up to narcotize the public in order for a huge cover-up to be enacted.³⁵ He then focused solely on Oswald's role in that charade:

I think that by playing a pro-Castro role on the one hand and associating with anti-Castro Cubans on the other, Oswald was playing out an intelligence role. This gets back to him being an agent or double agent. . . .All the fingerprints I found during my eighteen months on the Senate Select Committee point to Oswald as being a product of, and interacting with, the intelligence community.³⁶ This quote, word for word, could have been taken from any of several interviews given by Jim Garrison circa 1967. It took eleven years and a two year investigation to convince a senatorial committee that he was right and the Warren Commission, with their farcical tales of Oswald walking through the park with his rifle shooting birds, was wrong.

Almost immediately after the Church Committee released its report in May of 1976, the House of Representatives voted to create the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). The former body did not investigate the actual circumstances of the assassination. It confined itself to the performance of the intelligence agencies in response to that event. But its findings were so sobering that it opened up a Pandora's box of doubt and demons as to the validity of the official findings concerning the assassination.

Also at that time, assassination researcher and photographic expert Robert Groden was showing his optically enhanced copy of the Zapruder film on television and college campuses.³⁷ Congressman Thomas Downing was impressed by it and sponsored a bill that would create a committee to reinvestigate the

events surrounding the shooting. He did not expect his bill to pass so he chose not to run for reelection in 1976. To his surprise it did pass and the chairmanship went to Henry Gonzalez of Texas, who happened to have been in the motorcade through Dallas on November 22, 1963. Almost immediately, Gonzalez became embroiled in a vicious argument over money, methodology and power with Richard Sprague, his chief counsel. Gonzalez tried to fire Sprague. Sprague literally locked himself in his office and refused to leave while rallying members of the Select Committee to his cause. Angered and embarrassed, Gonzalez resigned. The probe seemed on the verge of collapse before it began.³⁸

Finally, a compromise was reached. Representative Louis Stokes of Ohio took command in March of 1977. Sprague agreed to step down. He was replaced by Cornell University law professor Robert Blakey, a specialist on mob influence in American life and author of several laws meant to combat that influence. The HSCA had wasted almost a year on internal bickering and finding a counsel. It now had new leadership on both the political and legal/investigatory side. In retrospect the new leaders were quite a mixed bag. Downing and Gonzalez were both convinced that the Warren Commission was wrong in both procedure and conclusions and they were both familiar with the literature in the field. Sprague was new to the field but seemed to have an open mind and was willing to follow the trail of evidence wherever it led.

This was not the case with Stokes and Blakey. Neither man had a broad background or familiarity with the case. Far from an open mind, Blakey seemed to look on many of the writers-researchers in the field as quaint kooks, scholars

in witchcraft and demonology. Consequently, it took both men quite awhile to get up to speed in acquainting themselves with the reputable literature and scholars in the field.

Blakey and Stokes quickly revealed two hallmarks to their working methods. First, almost all their hearings were held behind closed doors, as were the hearings of the Warren Commission. Second, Blakey placed a great belief in what he termed "scientific evidence". He divided up the inquiry into several areas of study e.g. photographic evidence, medical evidence, ballistics etc. He then appointed large panels of experts to oversee those areas and come to collective conclusions by way of voting.

Superficially, this approach has some appeal. Who could argue with a purely scientific probe into a complex event? The problem is that often these panels resorted to expressing opinions in pseudo-scientific gobbledygook in order to endorse preconceived theses. Since many of these men were new to the case, they had a predisposition to abide by the existing official line. This is a natural inclination with large, institutional bodies. Blakey and Stokes did nothing to discourage it as opposed to Garrison, who often coaxed his young staff into spontaneous brainstorming sessions. This stance explains why these experts ended up affirming the single-bullet theory.

Two examples will reveal the shallowness of Blakey's approach. Robert Groden was allowed to appear before the Committee to present some of his photographic discoveries. During his presentation, he pointed out in films from Dealey Plaza a man he felt was Joseph Milteer.³⁹ The reader will recall

that Milteer was the man mentioned in Chapter 6 who was caught on audiotape predicting that Kennedy would be shot with a rifle from an office building. Milteer was obviously a strong suspect in the assassination. He belonged to several powerful racist groups, among them the Klan. He was independently wealthy. He knew others who wished J.F.K. dead.⁴⁰ The man who recorded Milteer's talk was William Somerset, an informer for the F.B.I. and the Miami Police. On November 22nd, Somerset received a call from Milteer. He said he was in Dallas and told him that J.F.K. was there that day and he would never be in Miami again.⁴¹

This was a strong indication that Milteer was part of a Dallas conspiracy. The Committee did not want to hear it. They set about to disprove Milteer's presence in Groden's films. In some of the most tortured, strained reasoning ever devised by a government panel, they tried to show the man could not be Milteer because he was too short. The problem with this was that the mathematical premise the panel began with was faulty.⁴² It made everyone in the pictures too short. According to the panel, there was no woman in the films over 4'11". The bias in the panel's reasoning can be easily exposed by turning to Volume III, page 363 of an accompanying compilation of hearings. On the first page of the enclosed F.B.I. report about Milteer, his height is listed as 5'7". If one adds three inches to everyone in the film, it removes the hint of absurdity inflicted on it by the panel. It also suggests that the man is Milteer.

Another example of HSCA scientific method was furnished by Blakey himself. The Committee was having difficulty explaining the rapid firing sequence during the assassination.

They were trying to get the Mannlicher-Carcano to fire even faster than the 2.3 seconds specified by the F.B.I. in 1964. When none of the marksmen used by the Committee could accomplish this, Blakey told them to discard the telescopic sight. To just use the iron sights to line up the target and fire. This still was not fast enough. What did Blakey do? Did he accept the obvious fact that if these marksmen could not do it then Oswald certainly couldn't do it either? No he didn't. Blakey himself took a rifle and began firing from the hip i.e. without aiming the weapon.⁴³ If the conclusions necessitated, Mr. Blakey was quite ready to disregard ^{SP} "scientific method", common sense, and honesty.

But there was one piece of new evidence that Blakey and the Committee cound ^{SP} convincing, so convincing that they dropped the Warren Commission axe they had been grinding. The uncovering of this evidence led to the slaying of a third myth, that a lone gunman had assassinated John Kennedy. That there was no conspiracy.

The Zapruder film has always been powerful evidence that a sniper shot from the front of the motorcade. Unfortunately, Zapruder's camera was a silent one. So one could not sync up the sound of shots to the pictures to pinpoint an exact timing sequence that would help in locating direction. Mary Farrell, Gary Mack and others were researchers who alerted the HSCA to the existence of a tape recording of the Dallas Police radio transmissions from Dealey Plaza.⁴⁴

In the late spring of 1978, the tape was submitted to Dr. James Barger, chief acoustical scientist for the firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman. Dr. Barger had done previous

acoustical research for the Navy in the field of submarine sonar detection. He had also been involved in determining the source of gunfire from tapes of the 1979 Kent State shootings. Barger's analysis differed from earlier work done on the tapes by Bell Telephone Acoustics for the Warren Commission which was done just to sort out messages and movement.⁴⁵ But both analyses indicated that there were six nonvoiced noises on the tape. Dr. Barger screened the soundwaves he discovered through three tests:

- 1.) Did they occur during the period of the assassination?
- 2.) Do the shots occur during the time frame as indicated by the Zapruder film?
- 3.) Do the patterns resemble waves of gunfire as they would pass through the transmission systems used by the Dallas Police radio network? ⁴⁶

Barger found that all six soundwaves passed the tests. On the basis of his preliminary work he concluded that there was a 50-50 chance of a sniper firing from the direction of the grassy knoll.

Blakey and the Committee required more certainty. They submitted Barger's findings to another team of scientists, Professor Mark Weiss and his associate Ernest Aschkenasy. After two months of more refined testing, the pair presented their conclusions to the HSCA in dramatic public testimony. On December 29, 1978 they stated that there was a 95% probability of a second assassin firing from the knoll. Barger was called in to go over their findings. He concurred.⁴⁷

To test whether or not the sounds on the tape were authentic, the HSCA had sent a team of riflemen out to simulate

riflefire in Dealey Plaza and to tape it on similar devices. But here is where this crucial scientific evidence became compromised by politics. As stated above, all three teams of scientists had found 6 supersonic rifleshots on the tape. Yet, when it came time to write the Final Report, the author, Richard Billings wrote:

Accordingly, impulses one and six on the dispatch tape did not pass the most rigorous acoustical test and were deemed not to have been caused by gunfire from the Texas School Book Depository or Grassy Knoll.⁴⁸

Just what was the most rigorous acoustical test? The fact that the riflemen were ordered to shoot from only the book depository and the knoll area. In other words, if the test shots had been fired from say, the Dal-Tex Building, the impulses and echo patterns very likely would have matched. After all, the impulses could only be gunshots.⁴⁹ So, in all scientific likelihood, there were 6 shots from 3 directions, or as David Ferrie stated, a "triangulation of fire" (see Chapter 9).

The timing sequence of shots also fits the pattern of multiple assassins. They are bunched much too close together on the tape; some of them less than one second after the previous shot.⁵⁰ If the HSCA had recognized both these facts- 6 soundwaves, the close timing sequence-they would have had to conclude that there were three snipers. This was too bold for Blakey and Stokes. They eliminated two shots by testing only two firing locations and they solved the firing sequence problem by dredging up Arlen Specter's discredited single bullet theory.

The Committee again ignored their vaunted scientific method when the sound recordings were synced up with the Zapruder film. Weiss and Aschkenasy worked diligently with Robert Groden to synchronize the most logical sequence of shots with the proper frames of the Zapruder film. The sequence they came up with was as follows:

Shot #1-From behind

Shot #2-From behind

Shot #3-From the right/front

Shot #4-From behind⁵¹

The three experts felt that the fatal head shot matched the shot coming from the front. When they tried to match the last shot-from behind-to the head shot, it did not sync up as well.

In Groden's words:

When the fourth shot matched the head shot, no other shots aligned to a verifiable action on the film. But when the third shot was matched up, every other impulse matched an action on the film exactly.⁵²

When Groden, Weiss and Aschkenasy told Blakey this the counsel overruled them. The Congressmen were to be told that the fatal shot came from the rear.⁵³

Whatever the Committee did with the acoustics evidence, it undeniably pointed to a conspiracy. And with this finding, Blakey picked up the other axe he had to grind. Namely that the conspiracy had to be molded by the mob. The problem with this has always been that though Oswald has intelligence ties printed all over him, he does not have mob connections nor does he in any way fit the profile of even a low-level operative.

This did not deter Blakey. He decided to use whatever time and money the Committee had left to seek out any possible ties. Predictably they were quite weak. The area Oswald lived in when attending high school had a lot of organized crime in it. Oswald's mother worked for a shady lawyer. Oswald's uncle, whom he stayed with a week in the summer of '63, was a bookie. From here, Blakey, in his subsequent book The Plot to Kill the President, and later authors like John Davis and David Scheim, have spun out elaborate but amorphous paradigms to fit the Mafia into Oswald's life and acts. To understand where Blakey was coming from, one only need look at his book's bibliography. It includes 6 books on the assassination. The overwhelming majority of works are on organized crime—yes, The Godfather is included. Blakey's other two published works are also on organized crime. In his preoccupation with the mob in relation to the J.F.K. assassination, Blakey reminds us of the medical student who, when preparing for an exam by studying the stomach, was asked about the heart and replied: "The heart lies near the stomach. The stomach is constructed of. . . etc."

But other investigators were already onto promising leads in the last days of the HSCA inquiry. Oddly enough, at that late date in 1978, the Committee was just discovering the significance of the 544 Camp Street address. To them it served as a crucial intersection of Cuban exiles, intelligence interests and, tenuously, mob influences. This last was provided for by the fact that Ferrie worked for an attorney who was defending Mafia don, Carlos Marcello and had interested Bannister in helping Marcello fight deportation.⁵⁴

But a newer angle was almost being developed in those last frantic days. One of the Committee's best field investigators, Gaeton Fonzi was pursuing the last phase of the C.I.A. assassination plots against Castro. These were code named AM/LASH.

In September of 1963, the Agency made one last attempt to kill Castro, this time alone, without Mafia help. They used a man close to him, Rolando Cubela. Cubela had become disenchanted with Castro's brand of dictatorial communism. The Agency learned of this and agreed to supply him with weapons, including a telescopic rifle and a poison fountain pen. This was combined with an effort to encourage the more radical anti-Castro groups to attack Soviet ships in Cuban ports.

This is significant because by late 1963, Kennedy's official and unofficial policy was a softer line toward Cuba. Secretly he was moving toward reconciliation.⁵⁵ Neither he nor any other high official sanctioned these efforts. The Agency was acting on its own.

One of the men recruited in these clandestine enterprises was Antonio Veciano, founder of the radical group Alpha 66. Veciana was tutored by the C.I.A. in guerilla methods, psychological warfare, organization of cells, counterfeiting Cuban currency, maritime sabotage, and political assassination.⁵⁶ In nearly all these efforts, Veciana says that his C.I.A. contact and mentor was a man named Maurice Bishop. Bishop-a code name-recruited him in Havana in 1960 and the two stayed in contact through various South America intrigues until 1973.⁵⁷

Veciana stated that the genesis of his entire relationship with the Agency, and the specific acts he committed, were with Bishop. Bishop told him that it was his intention to cause trouble between Kennedy and the Russians, to negate the pledge

J.F.K. had made to Krushchev to leave Cuba alone. Bishop felt that:

Kennedy was a man without experience, surrounded by a group of young men who were also inexperienced, with mistaken ideas on how to manage this country. . . . You had to put Kennedy against the wall in order to force him to make decisions to remove Castro's regime.⁵⁸

This reasoning sounds ominously like those C.I.A. officers involved with the Bay of Pigs, namely Bissell and Charles Cabell. But Bishop went even further than that. He told Veciana that the best thing for this country would be "that people like Kennedy and his advisers should not be running it."⁵⁹

A few months after this, Veciana met Bishop in Dallas. They got together at a building in the downtown area called the Southland Center. He waited for Bishop on the first floor and when he arrived he was accompanied by a stranger. The trio stayed together as they went to the cafeteria before Bishop dismissed him. Veciana remembered this as being late August or early September of '63. After the assassination, Veciana realized the ^{SP}strang^{SP} man was Oswald. He was adamant on this point; it was him or his exact double. The time period is difficult to pinpoint on Oswald's New Orleans schedule, but if Bishop paid for his flight, ^{SP}Oswald's^{SP} aimless itinerary- he was supposed to be looking for a job at the time-allows for the rendezvous.⁶⁰

Veciana never revealed Bishop's true identity. But Fonzi strongly suspected that it was David Phillips, long-time C.I.A. Central American veteran.⁶¹ If Fonzi is right, the story becomes even more intriguing. For after the assassiantion,

Phillips strongly tried to implicate Oswald with Russian and Cuban contacts, especially during his September Mexico trip. Oswald probably made the trip. It is also probable that he was impersonated at both the Russian and Cuban embassies. For instance, Phillips insisted that he saw a transcript of taped conversations Oswald had in both embassies since they were both bugged by the Agency. Unfortunately the transcripts were destroyed after he saw them. Phillips also said that Oswald called the Soviet embassy and offered them information if they would pay his way to Russia.⁶²

These efforts tie in with Veciana's statement that, after the assassination, Bishop asked him if his cousin at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City would make statements saying that he saw Oswald there weeks before.⁶³

This scenario fits Bishop's rationale as related to Veciana previously. Kennedy had been gotten rid of already. If he could now incriminate Oswald with Cuban and Russian interests the whole antagonistic relationship with Castro could be renewed out of revenge for the dead president.

If Phillips was Bishop, he, along with Cabell were very possibly the Agency links who authorized the New Orleans based plot. Remember, it was Shaw who introduced Cabell at a foreign policy conference in New Orleans right after the Bay of Pigs debacle, shortly before Kennedy fired him. After Cabell was fired, he went to work for Howard Hughes and reportedly worked closely with Robert Maheu.⁶⁴ Maheu was the Agency contact man with the mob when the C.I.A. first sought out assistance in the Castro death plots in 1960. And it was Cabell who Bissell says authorized the plan originally along with Allen Dulles.⁶⁵

If Garrison had been successful in his prosecution of Clay Shaw, the next higher-up he intended to indict was Cabell.⁶⁶

Alas, these leads did not surface until the Committee's final days. Blakey's last act was to recommend the HSCA findings to the Justice Department. The Justice Department-under Reagan at the time-commissioned a study that tried, unsuccessfully, to discredit the acoustical evidence.

Ultimately, the House probe was unsatisfactory in many ways. It took to the methods and findings of the Warren Commission in no uncertain terms (see Final Report p. x). But reservations about its work are best summed up by writer-researcher Carl Oglesby:

This report has serious shortcomings. It pulls its punches. It insinuates much about the Mob and J.F.K.'s death which it then says it doesn't really mean. It is alternately confused and dogmatic on the subject of Oswald's motive. It tells us it could not see all the way into the heart of C.I.A. or F.B.I. darkness. Its treatment of the technical evidence in the crucial areas of shot sequencing and medical evidence is shallow and unconvincing.⁶⁷

Fonzi himself had similar strong reservations:

There is not one investigator-not one-who served on the Kennedy task force of the Assassinations Committee who honestly feels he took part in an adequate investigation, let alone a "full and complete" one.⁶⁸

IT is sad that the HSCA did not consult Garrison. His files

could have saved the blinker-eyed Blakey much time. Perhaps enough time so Fonzi could have solved the mystery of "Maurice Bishop". To read the section of the HSCA Report concerning the Cuban exiles and Oswald's association with them is to almost reread the history of Garrison's case.⁶⁹ Some of the topics gone into at length: Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, militant anti-Castro groups, Agency involvement with these groups, Sylvia Odio, ^{SP}possibility of a "second Oswald", Oswald's connections to exile groups, Oswald in Clinto, Oswald and Ferrie, Guy Bannister and 544 Camp Steet, Clay Shaw, Sergio Arcacha Smith, De Mohrenschildt, and a supplementary report verifying the Rose Cherami story in all essentials.⁷⁰ The Committee also concluded that Ruby's murder os Oswald was not spontaneous and he likely had help entering the Dallas Police station.⁷¹

Although better than the Warren Report, the new official version was issued so long after the fact-16 years-that it could not really accuse one group of the crime. It made no definite conclusions. But by way of the Veciana-Bishop episode it furthered Garrison's case. And whichever of the prabable paths of suspicion you pursue-Cuban exile groups, organized crime, C.I.A.-Mafia plots on Fidel-the man you go through is David Ferrie. The man who unmasked Ferrie is Jim Garrison.

Chapter 13

- ¹Kirkwood, p. 17; Flammonde, p. 211.
- ²Marrs, p. 499.
- ³Flammonde, pp. 215, 218.
- ⁴Flammonde, p. 224; Garrison, p. 146.
- ⁵Ibid., p. 216.
- ⁶Ibid., p. 218.
- ⁷Both quotes, Flammonde, p. 221.
- ⁸Garrison, pp. 89-90.
- ⁹See Chapter 2, p. 12.
- ¹⁰Garrison, p. 90.
- ¹¹Marrs, p. 499.
- ¹²Hurt, p. 282.
- ¹³Fletcher Prouty, The Secret Team (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.:
Prentice Hall, 1973), pp. 337-339.
- ¹⁴Marrs, p. 498.
- ¹⁵Hurt, p. 282.
- ¹⁶Marrs, p. 500.
- ¹⁷Garrison, p. 251.
- ¹⁸Ibid.
- ¹⁹Summers, p. 161.
- ²⁰Ibid, p. 168.
- ²¹Melanson, pp. 93-95.
- ²²Garrison, p. 90.

- ²³Belin, pp. 93-95.
- ²⁴Ibid, p. 116.
- ²⁵Sobel, p. 59.
- ²⁶Ibid, p. 66.
- ²⁷Ibid, p. 59.
- ²⁸Ibid.
- ²⁹Ibid, p. 74.
- ³⁰Ibid, p. 80.
- ³¹Ibid, p. 82.
- ³²Summers, p. 295.
- ³³Ibid.
- ³⁴Ibid, p. 142.
- ³⁵Ibid, p. 295.
- ³⁶Ibid, p. 296.
- ³⁷Ibid, p. 63, p. 76; Belin p. 188.
- ³⁸Belin, p. 188.
- ³⁹HSCH VI, p. 242.
- ⁴⁰HSCH III, pp. 363-365.
- ⁴¹Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone, High Treason (New York: Berkley Books, 1990) p. 475.
- ⁴²The analysis in in HSCH VI pp. 242-257.
- ⁴³Summers, p. 77.
- ⁴⁴Groden p. 241.
- ⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁷David Scheim, *Contract on America* (New York: Shapolsky Publishers, 1988) p. 27.

⁴⁸Groden, p. 245.

⁴⁹*Ibid.*

⁵⁰*Ibid.*

⁵¹*Ibid.*, p. 261.

⁵²*Ibid.*

⁵³*Ibid.*, p. 262.

⁵⁴Summers, p. 335.

⁵⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 421-426.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 354-355.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*

⁵⁸*Ibid.*, p. 353.

⁵⁹*Ibid.*, p. 356.

⁶⁰*Ibid.*, p. 357.

⁶¹*Ibid.*, pp. 390-391.

⁶²*Ibid.*, pp. 388-389.

⁶³*Ibid.*, p. 392.

⁶⁴Groden, p. 154.

⁶⁵Groden, p. 311.

⁶⁶*Ibid.*, p. 314.

⁶⁷*Ibid.*, p. 399.

⁶⁸*Ibid.*

⁶⁹HSCR, pp. 129-147.

⁷⁰HSCH X, pp. 199-205.

⁷¹HSCR, pp. 156-158; HSCH V pp. 575-586, IX pp. 137-148, 1122-
1128.

said was a Minuteman errand. Having given the district attorney's office this information, he disappeared.

It was reported that he later telephoned from Atlanta saying he would never return to New Orleans. Then he called from Montreal, and afterward Tampa, where he was arrested.

He informed Garrison staffers that he had worked for the CIA and had reestablished his connection following a suggestion by Walter Sheridan, a chief investigator for the NBC program on Garrison, that he withdraw to Canada.⁵⁸

Donald P. Norton was another individual who seemed to have been related to Ferrie and the CIA. Saying he was pressed into intelligence work as an alternative to being publically exposed as a homosexual, he recalls having met the pilot in 1958, when he was calling himself Pharris or Ferris. The sum of \$150,000 was given to Norton for delivery to a Havana agent.

Norton also told of being sent from Atlanta to Monterey, Mexico, with \$50,000 for anti-Castroites. On arriving, he says, he was contacted by Harvey Lee, a physical double for Oswald. Lee gave him a briefcase of documents for the money, and he delivered them to an oil company man in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Purportedly, a polygraph test offered no reason to doubt Norton's story.⁵⁹

Another rather melodramatic and fascinating episode yet to be properly placed in the inquiry picture concerns much-decorated Richard Case Nagell, who has said he went from army captain (in the Korean War) to CIA agent.

Nagell entered an El Paso, Texas, bank on September 20, 1963, shot holes in the ceiling and calmly waited for the police to arrive. He later said he wanted to be in jail when the assassination occurred and that registered letters to J. Edgar Hoover, warning of the approaching tragedy, had gone unanswered.


In a telegraphically condensed interview with the FBI on December 19, 1963, Nagell said that "his association with [Lee Harvey] Oswald was purely social and that he had met him in Mexico City and Texas."⁶⁰ Other information had him making "wild accusations to newspaper reporters (on January 24, 1964), accusing the FBI of not attempting to prevent the assassination of President Kennedy."⁶¹

⁵⁸ *Ramparts*, January 1968.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ Warren Commission Document No. 197.

⁶¹ Warren Commission Document No. 404.

R. NAGELL 

Nagell has also said that in his CIA capacity he was dispatched to infiltrate an anti-Castro plot, as part of which he was assigned to "arrow" (kill) the "patsy" after Kennedy was slain.

Since then he has been shunted from one federal confinement to another.⁶²

No better off was Abraham Bolden, first Negro Secret Service agent, who made the error of reporting that other agents had been living it up the night before the death of the President, plus reporting that Oswald had cried "Ruby hired me!" during his brief period of custody. Bolden was soon charged with bribery, convicted and imprisoned.

Yet Ruby's tentacles seemed to be many and far reaching. Twice in June, 1963, he called PE 8-1951, a Fort Worth television station. The number appeared twice in Oswald's address book. David Ferrie's telephone records included a call to WH 4-4970 in Chicago; the same number was called from Kansas City on November 20, 1963, by a Chicago friend of Ruby, one Lawrence Meyers, who arrived in Dallas that same evening.

Recurring telephone numbers seem inescapable in the developing probe. Oswald, for example, had the Dallas number FR 5-5591 in his notebook twice. It was ascribed to one Kenneth Cody, a bus driver uncle to Dallas policeman Joe Cody, who conceded he had known Ruby for a dozen years. His partner in the homicide bureau, Detective James R. Leavelle, was one of the officers escorting Oswald when he was gunned down by the nightclub operator.

James Hicks, identified as a survivor from Enid, Oklahoma, who was in Dallas on November 22, 1963, was subpoenaed by Garrison early in January. It is his evaluation that four shots were fired, one spearing over his head into a traffic sign which, he states, was removed almost at once by men he assumed to be Dallas police. Hicks says he left his name with an officer at the assassination site, but never was contacted as a witness by the Warren Commission.

In the early morning prior to his grand jury appearance, Hicks reported, his hotel room was invaded by two Negro men who roughed him up and tossed him through French doors leading to a balcony outside his sixth-floor room. However, the witness said he did not believe the assault was related to the investigation.

Garrison reached back into post-assassination history for another interesting figure when he subpoenaed Kerry Wendell Thornley, a onetime Marine friend of Oswald, on January 9, 1968.

On the West Coast until recently when he moved to Tampa, Florida,

⁶² Ramparts, January, 1968.

*Lead in to
19106*

*2 Super
nos. (LO/Ruby)*

*2 Dallas
nos. (LO/Show)*

DESIGN

SIGN

had offered to testify that he had conferred with Shaw, Jack Ruby, and Lee Oswald from two to nine in the evening, on September 2, 1963. The meeting purportedly took place at the Jack Tar Capital House Hotel in Baton Rouge. Rumors indicated that assertions were being made that Mr. Shaw contributed financial support to Mr. Johnson's campaign.

Garrison's office also claimed that it had unearthed evidence of three rendezvous between Shaw and Oswald in small, rural Louisiana towns during the late summer of 1963.

The New Orleans *States-Item* then ran a copyrighted story¹¹ by Hoke May, David Snyder, Ross Yockey, and Rosemary James of its staff and R. T. Endicott of the Dayton (Ohio) *Daily News*, which began to crack the shell of denial regarding the CIA's involvement in the case and with some of the principal participants. Gordon Novel had already announced that he intended to hide behind the cloak (and his famous "Mr. Weiss letter" suggested even the dagger) of the Central Intelligence Agency in the face of the looming Garrison inquiry. Now Shaw himself was seemingly revealed as having connections with that mysterious department of the United States government. Certainly he was associated with two organizations which were widely identified by responsible figures as being arms, fronts, or financial conduits for its activities.

Rather than draw on the excellent, but necessarily secondhand, report of the group of star journalists mentioned, the author established communications with the original source, the newspaper *Paesa Sera* of Rome. What follows is the result of that line of inquiry.

There was established in Rome an organization named the Centro Mondiale Commerciale. Its origins, functions, rotating presidency, geographical displacements, sub-, subsequent, and alternate designations, were so complex and labyrinthine as to make a comprehensive and comprehensible description of it in anything less than a moderate-sized book impossible. Nonetheless, the essence of its activities can be sketched here, and as they seem to deeply incorporate Clay Shaw, a former OSS colonel, Italian Fascists, supporters of the far, paramilitary right in Europe, the CIA, and other like subjects, it is vital that the fundamentals of this situation be clarified as much as space and the entire business' innate irreducible confusion permit.¹²

In 1959 another of the mysterious figures who appear to comprise the major portion of the persons somehow related to the investigation in New Orleans, a Hungarian, George Mandel, at one point Italianized to

¹¹ New Orleans *States-Item*, New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, and Dayton (Ohio) *Daily News*, April 25, 1967.

¹² *Paesa Sera*, March 4, 1967.

stand anything of this strange man, Clay L. Shaw of New Orleans, and who knows where, the simple two-dimensional sketch offered to the public should be given the depth a more concrete mass of material would reveal.

One last point must be noted before we leave this particular area of inquiry. Seeking more information regarding the Centro Mondiale Commerciale, the author telephoned the office of the Italian Consul General in New York. After having received silence in response to requests for information in three successive steps, the author was turned over to an apparent superior. When the question "What can you tell me about the CMC in Rome?" was put, for the fourth time, to a man whom the entire series of exchanges indicated to be of considerable authority, he replied: "Why don't you contact the American Embassy?" "The American Embassy?" echoed the author, not a little surprised at the candidness implied. "The American Embassy in Rome," the anonymous informant repeated. "But we are interested in the CMC as seen from the Italian perspective," the author explained. "Try the American Embassy, I can't help you any further." The gentleman was thanked for his assistance and the conversation concluded.³⁵

In New Orleans, Clay L. Shaw is a distinguished citizen.

In Rome he was a key member of the boards of two highly recondite, clandestine organizations, numbering among his colleagues persons accused of "criminal activities" on an international level, Fascists, and victims of European assassinations.

Are they, in any way, reconcilable images?

The complexity of Shaw's associations does not end with the Centro Mondiale Commerciale and Permindex, but extends deeply into his personal relationships in Europe. His private address and telephone book, for example, carries the name and address of the wife of a well-known English Fascist, as well as the name, address, and private telephone number of Principessa Marcelle Borghese (now Duchessa de Bomartao), who is related to Prince Valerio Borghese, sometimes referred to as "the Black Prince," or "the New Duce," leader of the Movimento Sociale Italiano, the anti-British, anti-American neo-Fascist organization. The prince was a much-decorated midget-submarine commander during the war, following which he was tried and sentenced to twelve years in prison for cooperating with the Nazis after the Italian armistice with the Allies was signed. However, as he had spent four years in jail awaiting trial, after sentencing, the remaining prison period was suspended.³⁶

³⁵ Author's private files.

³⁶ Dennis Eisenberg, *The Re-emergence of Fascism* (London, MacGibbon and Lee, 1967).

Around this time, Jack Dempsy of the *States-Item* asked the district attorney if he would identify the "others" whose identity the defense was seeking.

"It's none of your business," snapped the giant prosecutor.

"It is my business," replied the reporter. "I represent the people."

"You don't represent anybody," Garrison advised him.

Jim Mitchie of WDSU-TV then asked: "How do you feel you're being treated by the New Orleans news media?"

"Who writes your questions," barbed Garrison, "the switchboard operator?"⁴³

On May 12 the New Orleans district attorney announced he had uncovered a code, uses of which he had isolated in both the notebook of Lee Harvey Oswald and one of Clay L. Shaw. The result of decoding, in each instance, led to the private, unlisted, 1963 telephone number of Jack Ruby, he said. The disclosure was made before Judge Edward A. Haggerty, in answer to defense motions.

The formal legal reply remarked: "While the state considers other items relevant also, the address book is so connected with the issue that it would be an injustice to allow it to be returned, with the possibility that it might be destroyed forever."⁴⁴

Garrison asserted that Shaw's address book contained "a unique address which also exists in the address book of Lee Harvey Oswald, as printed in the Warren Commission exhibits (Volume 16, page 58.)"

The reference was to a notation "P.O. Box 19106," and a photograph of the page was supplied.

In Shaw's address book the entry read:

"LEE ODOM
PO BOX 19106
DALLAS, TEX."

"What makes even more significant this interesting concurrence of address is the fact that in 1963 there existed no such post-office box number in Dallas," remarked Garrison.

"When two parties each have precisely the same non-existent or fictional number in their respective address books," the formal reply continues, "the possibility of coincidence is removed because of the uniqueness of a selected non-existent number."

"The fact is that P.O. 19106 has been found to be a coded description of an unpublished phone number in Dallas, Tex., in 1963. The code involved is one which is used in Oswald's notebook quite system-

⁴³ *Ibid.*, May 10, 1967.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, May 12, 1967.

atically, apparently for the purpose of concealing phone numbers he regarded as sensitive. . . ." ⁴⁵

The number in question, the pleading goes on to disclose, was the private, unlisted one of Jack Ruby for the year 1963.

Shaw responded immediately. The number in his book, he contended, was that of a business associate. The defense contention was that the Lee Odom in question was a business associate from the 1965 period and that the number was a business address of his. However, members of the press corps could find no Lee Odom listed in any standard telephone or city directory. Dallas postal officials said the post box number came into use late in 1965.

The defense attorneys claimed the coexistent numeric notation was pure coincidence.

Jim Garrison had the code worked out in considerable detail and he made the purported cipher available to the court.

Number Found in Notebooks	P.O. 19106
Translate P.O. Exchange to Number; Translate P.O. Box Numbers to Letters	13ACEDB
Translate Number 13 to Whitehall Exchange; Unscramble Numbers	WH ABCDE 16901
Subtract Standard Masking Number	- 1300
Ruby's Number	WH 1-5601

SIMPLE GUIDE TO OSWALD'S REPORTED DECODING SYSTEM

First, said the prosecutor, Oswald took a standard telephone dial as his point of departure. The numbers in the "P" and "O" fingerholes are 7 and 6, totaling 13. The numbers "W" and "H" are 9 and 4, totaling 13. According to Garrison, the only Dallas exchange in 1963 which added up to 13 was "Whitehall."

The district attorney poses that Oswald followed the common cryptographic practice of using easily remembered base, or masking, numbers, for additional obfuscation. Oswald's key deception numbers, said Garrison, were the block on Magazine where he lived in New Orleans—that is, 4900, and the block number of Clay Shaw's house—1300. In the case

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

of the Ruby telephone listing it is argued that the key 1300 was employed.

If one takes the nightclub owner's private number—WH 1-5601—and achieves the exchange by the previously explained telephone dial substitution, getting "PO," one has "1-5601" remaining. To this is added the masking number 1300, giving one "1-6901," which is juxtaposed to the simplest possible sequence of letters A B C D E or

A B C D E
1 6 9 0 1.

Garrison pointed out that this combination was subject to the most uncomplicated "scrambling," that is, one leaves the initial letter in position, and pushes the second to the end of the sequence, the third letter is left in its original place and the fourth moved over to the next-to-the-end point, and the fifth letter remains at its starting point. Or the odd-numbered letters ACE remain in position; the even letters BD are reversed and tagged on the end of the series, resulting in ACEDB. The numerals always remain with their "overletters" and therefore the result is

A C E D B
1 9 1 0 6

Now add the exchange transposition "WH" to "PO" and one comes out with "PO 19106" the number Garrison has found in both Oswald's and Shaw's telephone notebooks.⁴⁶

It looked quite persuasive.

However, only a couple of days later the *States-Item* tracked down Lee Odom, relayed their information to James C. Lehrer of the *Dallas Times-Herald*, and he was interviewed. Seemingly, he did, in fact, exist.

Shaw's lawyers amplified the "contradiction" of Garrison's code thesis by offering additional data.

Odom, they asserted, had come to New Orleans in 1966 hoping to promote a bullfight there. He sought from the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel the name of a good person to contact regarding his venture and Shaw's name was offered. "I called him—or the manager called him, I don't remember exactly," said Odom, and "he came over to the hotel and we talked for fifteen or twenty minutes. He gave me his business card—I bet I still have it somewhere—and I gave him my address in Dallas.

"The bullfight didn't come off and we never communicated again—that's all there was to it."

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, May 13, 1967.

The Dallas man said that he had given Shaw the "PO 19106" number at the time of their meeting and that it was the designation of a postbox in the Medical Center Postal Substation in the city where the President died, a number registered under the L. & R. Barbecue Company, an operation he was conducting at that period. In all, he said, the box was retained for three or four months.

"I have nothing to hide—my goodness," Odom assured reporters, saying he would gladly tell his story to Garrison. "You could tell Mr. Shaw I am ready to help him if I can," he added, somewhat after the fact.⁴⁷

Yet when the New Orleans district attorney replied on the following day, he did not seem to have been taken quite so by surprise as most people thought.

We are well aware that there is a Mr. Lee Odom. As a matter of fact, he lives in Irving, Texas, just outside of Dallas. This is the suburb in which Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald lived while Lee Oswald was working at the book depository in Dallas. Mr. Odom's post-office box number there now is P.O. 174.

The fact that there is a real Lee Odom, however, is not the point. The point is that Clay Shaw and Lee Oswald have the same post-office box number in their address books and this is, in coded form, the unpublished phone number of Jack Ruby in 1963. The fact that someone acquired the post-office box when it came into existence in late 1965 does not change the oddity of that circumstance at all.

We are very interested in knowing who introduced Mr. Odom to Mr. Shaw, how many bullfights Mr. Odom has actually produced and a few other things. We are particularly interested in clarifying now why there is also coded in Lee Oswald's address book the local phone number of the Central Intelligence Agency.

We have had evidence for some time that in Dallas, Texas, Jack Ruby was working for the CIA at the same time Lee Oswald was working for the CIA here.

This means that the CIA well knew that these two men knew each other. We also have evidence that Lee Oswald was not the only man in Dealey Plaza who was an employee of the CIA and now we have found the phone number of the CIA in the front of Lee Oswald's address book.

Since it is obvious that it is no longer possible to get the truth in any form from officials of the CIA agency in Washington, no matter how

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, May 17, 1967.

highly placed, we are looking forward to talking to this businessman from Irving, Texas, about some of these coincidences.⁴⁸

Garrison's attack on the CIA became more concentrated during an appearance on WWL-TV:

"The Central Intelligence Agency has," he claimed, "infinitely more power than the Gestapo and the NKVD of Russia combined," and that the ultra-arcanic organ of the United States government knew "the name of every man involved and the name of the individuals who pulled the triggers" in the murder in Dealey Plaza.⁴⁹

Dallas officials continued to discount Garrison's theories, particularly those relating to the thesis of a precision team of guerrillas functioning as an execution squad, and to the mechanics which would necessarily have been involved in the multiple assassination argument.

A copyrighted Associated Press story of May 26, 1967, contained the following two paragraphs.

[District Attorney Henry] Wade and [retired Police Chief Jesse] Curry said they looked but found no proof that Oswald and Ruby knew each other.

Wade said eight or ten persons volunteered information that Ruby and Oswald were together on occasions but he said he could not vouch for the credibility of any of them. A local lawyer failed a lie-detector test about such beliefs and some of the other informants were alleged homosexuals or police characters.

One could be led only to infer that Wade had no interest in discovering additional facts about the President's death should they not come from heterosexuals or persons of reasonable repute, or that persons falling into either of the categories mentioned earlier were automatically regarded as liars.

The month of May concluded with Judge Edward A. Haggerty stipulating stricter guidelines for individuals involved in the trial of Clay Shaw. Questioned as to whether he felt that his earlier orders had been ignored and that some persons might be in contempt of court, he replied: "That's the reason I'm having this press conference today, because I feel that way."⁵⁰

Explaining that any contempt citations would have to wait until the

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, May 22, 1967.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, May 29, 1967.

if the U. S. was inaccessible to interests which could represent them, not to mention such apparati of the K.G.B. which might have access to the mountain. The answer appeared to be, said Roundtree, opening a folder that several such attempts had been made. There seemed to occur an unusual number of murders on Superstition Mountain. Several dozen over the past twenty years, according to the records -- and always, unsolved. More to the point, over the past two years, of five men found murdered on the mountain, two who died there last year had been identified by the D.I. as having palpable links with the K.G.B. apparatus and two others, found this past year, had been West Germans, with long dossiers as K.G.B. agents, who had been traveling as "tourists" in Arizona. Did Weston have any explanation for the phenomenon?

"A possible explanation," said Weston. "Superstition Mountain is considered a holy mountain by the Apache tribe. The reservation is just east of the mountain -- on the opposite side from Phoenix."

(The remainder of Weston's special training course at the No Name Hilton includes a switch for which I have not laid the predicate up to this point -- but which I'll be trying out during the writing from here on, temporarily at least. He learns that as "Kenneth Campbell" he has to play the role of a military doctor. He raises hell about this but finally goes along with the four day cram course they have lined up to enable him to play, at a superficial level at least, the role of a military M.D. By the time he has finished his special training at the No Name Hilton & is ready for his German assignment, Roundtree has already left for Germany a day ahead of him).

full house
 "Probably because your *terrifying* *reconstruction* *real fast.*"
 get you started in *Identification* *Reconstruction* *real fast.*"
What the hell, Weston wondered, was this masked exam course? Then
 "So Colonel Roundtree told me. Why a birth certificate for
 another question *surfaced in his mind.*"
 Albuquerque?"

"Because that's where the new you was born. Why was the new you born specifically there? Partly because your real dossier indicates that you're part Indian, although it wouldn't have been apparent to me. Which means we want a western State. And partly because we have a retired Agency man in Albuquerque, which gives us document control."

"Why not make the birth certificate for Phoenix, Arizona.?"

"Because that's where you really were born and our instructions are to establish disassociation from Kim Weston and you. Any other questions or can we get started?"

"Just one more. Who is the new me going to be?"

"You are Kenneth Campbell. That's all you need to know for the moment. In a little while I'm going to be handing you a detailed dossier of your origins, your background, your whole identity as Kenneth Campbell. It'll not only answer any other questions you might be able to think up but you'll be sick of it by this time tomorrow. You're going to have to memorize every word of it, then when we've got it all transferred to your brain we'll put the Campbell biography into the shredder."

town. We were becoming more and more conscious of seeing the blue and white cars of WDSU's Channel 6 - the local N.B.C. affiliate - parked for hours at a time in the vicinity of the courthouse where our office was located.

It was just about then that we learned from the Parish Prison that the N.B.C. news investigators had been having a number of interviews with John Cancler, a frequent guest at the prison. Cancler had just been convicted of burglary and was soon to be sentenced to the penitentiary. Cancler, a man of some distinction on the local criminal scene, had acquired a record of sorts from a few previous peccadillos, which meant that a review of possible convictions in other regions was in order before his sentencing.

"John the Baptist", as he was better known around town, was a familiar figure to law enforcement authorities in the New Orleans area, not merely with regard to his periodic social calls to the homes of others, preferably when they were gone, but with regard to charges involving prostitutes whose services he provided when not engaged in house calls.

We had some trouble in understanding just how N.B.C. seriously would find conversations with Cancler to be rewarding, considering that the professional specialties of